

PROCEEDINGS
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A NEW WHITE-FOOTED MOUSE (*PEROMYSCUS*
LEUCOPUS) FROM SOUTHEASTERN VIRGINIA

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Two slightly differentiated subspecies of *Peromyscus leucopus* have been described from the mainland of the eastern United States. Osgood (North Amer. Fauna, 28:115, 1909) has pointed out that extreme examples of the more southern form, *Peromyscus leucopus leucopus*, are to be found in southern Louisiana, while the more northern race, *Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis*, is best characterized in central New England. The type localities for both these forms are in intermediate areas: Mouth of the Ohio River in Kentucky for *P. l. leucopus*, and New York for *P. l. noveboracensis*. These subspecies are distinguished largely by coloration. Along the southern Virginia coast, and probably into North Carolina, a previously unrecognized subspecies occurs which differs markedly from all other mainland forms of the eastern United States in both size and coloration. It may be known as:

Peromyscus leucopus easti, new subspecies

Holotype: U. S. National Museum No. 302764; adult ♂, skin and skull; collected 10 April 1956, by Charles O. Handley, Jr., original No. 3052, in myrtle shrubbery in the flats back of the dunes on the barrier beach, 6.8 miles SE Pungo, Princess Anne County, Virginia.

This subspecies is named for Charles S. East, exhibits preparator at the U. S. National Museum, who collected white-footed mice at Virginia Beach in the summer of 1928.

Distribution: Taken in eastern Princess Anne County, Virginia, at Virginia Beach; 5 mi. S Virginia Beach; and 6.8 mi. SE Pungo. Probably occurs from the region of Cape Henry, Virginia, south along the barrier beach to Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, in favorable habitat.

Diagnosis: Similar to *Peromyscus leucopus leucopus* and *Peromyscus leucopus noveboracensis* but differs from both these forms as follows: Much smaller size, both externally and cranially; greater interorbital



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breadth; longer interparietal; bony palate relatively longer in proportion to greatest length of skull; basilar length relatively shorter; cheek teeth relatively larger; braincase shorter, higher and more rounded; wings of pterygoids less expanded laterally; zygomatic arch presenting a more rounded aspect when viewed dorsally; zygomatic arch shorter in proportion to greatest length of skull; entire skull more delicately built.

In all pelages the coloration of *Peromyscus l. easti* differs from that of *Peromyscus l. leucopus* in being much paler, and in having a brighter, reddish wash on the flanks. *Peromyscus l. easti* is similar to *P. l. noveboracensis*, but has a reddish rather than a yellowish wash on the flanks.

Measurements: Ten adults of *P. l. easti* from 6.8 mi. SE Pungo, and from Virginia Beach, Princess Anne County, Virginia, measure as follows (averages followed by extremes): Total length 152.4 mm (145–162); tail 68.6 (62–75); hind foot 19.0 (18–20); ear 17.6 (17–18); greatest length of skull 24.7 (23.9–25.6); basilar length 19.0 (18.3–19.6); zygomatic width 13.0 (12.6–13.3); interorbital constriction 4.1 (3.9–4.3); interparietal length 8.5 (7.2–9.4); length of nasals 9.6 (9.1–10.5); length of bony palate 4.0 (3.7–4.2); anterior palatine foramina 4.8 (4.7–5.0); diastema 6.6 (6.4–6.9); postpalatal length 8.9 (8.6–9.2); maxillary toothrow 3.5 (3.4–3.6); height of braincase 9.1 (8.8–9.4).

The two series which have been combined in the above measurements show no significant differences from each other.

Comparative measurements: The following measurements are given as an aid in comparing *Peromyscus leucopus leucopus* and *P. l. noveboracensis* with *P. l. easti*.

Seven adult specimens of *P. l. leucopus* from Houma, Louisiana, measure as follows: Total length 171.6 mm (162–180); tail 78.7 (74–83); hind foot 20.9 (20–22); greatest length of skull 26.3 (25.9–26.7); basilar length 19.8 (19.6–20.0); zygomatic width 13.5 (13.2–14.2); interorbital constriction 4.0 (3.8–4.1); interparietal length 8.4 (8.0–8.9); length of nasals 10.0 (9.5–10.4); length of bony palate 4.0 (3.9–4.2); anterior palatine foramina 5.1 (4.9–5.5); diastema 6.8 (6.5–6.9); postpalatal length 9.2 (8.9–9.6); length of maxillary toothrow 3.6 (3.4–3.9); height of braincase 8.9 (8.1–9.3).

Nine adult specimens of *P. l. noveboracensis* from Lake George, New York, measure as follows: Total length 175.0 mm (170–186); tail 80.9 (75–88); hind foot 20.7 (20–21); greatest length of skull 26.2 (25.6–26.9); basilar length 19.9 (19.3–21.7); zygomatic width 13.3 (12.8–13.7); interorbital constriction 3.9 (3.7–4.1); interparietal length 8.2 (7.4–8.9); nasals 9.9 (9.5–10.6); length of bony palate 4.0 (3.8–4.2); anterior palatine foramina 5.0 (4.8–5.3); diastema 7.1 (6.9–7.5); postpalatal length 9.3 (8.9–10.0); maxillary toothrow 3.5 (3.4–3.7); height of braincase 9.1 (8.8–9.6).

Remarks: *Peromyscus leucopus leucopus* occurs at nearby inland localities such as Dismal Swamp, Suffolk and Hampton, Virginia, and at Manteo and Currituck, North Carolina. Large series taken on Assateague Island, Accomack County, Virginia, and on the southern portion of the Delmarva

Peninsula, are also most like typical *leucopus*. Hence, *P. l. easti* has a small range. Within this range it is apparently confined to the marshes and sandy flats back of the beach dunes. Although its range is thus restricted, its very distinctive characters warrant its subspecific recognition.

Specimens examined: (All in collections at U. S. National Museum) 18, from Princess Anne Co., Virginia, as follows: Virginia Beach, 10; 5 mi. S Virginia Beach, 2; 6.8 mi. SE Pungo, 6.

Comparative material: (All in collections at U. S. National Museum) KENTUCKY—Eubank, 29. LOUISIANA—Houma, 17; LaFayette, 2; Mer Rouge, 4; Morgan City, 8; Tallulah, 5. NEW HAMPSHIRE—Ossipee, 32. NEW YORK—Hastings, 2; Lake George, 29; Locust Grove, 9; Newburgh, 2; Owego, 5; Sing Sing, 2. NORTH CAROLINA—Asheville, 2; Catalooche Ranch, 2; Chapanoke, 2; Currituck, 4; Highlands, 1; Manteo, 2; Old Richmond, 1; Pisgah National Forest, 13; Raleigh, 36. VIRGINIA—Amelia, 10; Assateague Island, 29; Belle Haven, 1; Chincoteague Island, 12; Dismal Swamp, 48; near Hampton, 9; Kinsale, 15; Old Point Comfort, 3; near Wattsville, 35.